

Vernal Resource Management Plan

Brief History

- Consolidates and makes consistent the 1985 Book Cliffs Resource Management Plan and 1994 Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan.
- The planning area encompasses 7,325,500 acres. 1,725,500 acres of this is BLM managed surface lands and 1,911,000 acres is BLM managed mineral estate [includes split estate minerals within the Hill Creek extension of approximately 185,500 acres].
- The Plan addresses future management upon BLM managed lands within Daggett, Uintah, and Duchesne counties, and a small portion of Grand County (northern edge).
- This is a contractor prepared RMP/EIS.
- NOI published March 12, 2001.
- Draft RMP NOA published January 14, 2005.
- ACEC NOA published December 13, 2005.
- Received a combined total of approximately 14,100 comment letters associated with both comment period opportunities.
- Developing the plan cooperatively with Daggett, Uintah, and Duchesne counties, State of Utah, and the Northern Ute Tribe.

Major Issues

- Fluid mineral development and RFD
- Special Designations – ACECs, W&SRs, externally nominated wilderness units and subsequent analysis for wilderness character
- Wildlife – cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on threatened, endangered, or sensitive species and their habitats; habitat fragmentation; UDWR changes in habitat boundaries (expanded areas); raptor guidelines.
- Recreation - OHV (change to designated routes), SRMAs, VRM classification
- Forage allocation and conversion

Status/Schedule

- Currently, the VFO is working with the contractor to prepare a preliminary Proposed RMP/Final EIS based upon response to public comments.
- State Office is working to develop guidance on raptor BMPs.
- Proposed Plan/Final EIS is expected to be available March 2007.
- The Final RMP/ROD is expected to be available February 2008.

Next Steps

- Review of preliminary Proposed RMP by the cooperators, WO, USO, and VFO during November 2006.
- Preparation of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS after incorporation of comments received from the review period.

